

If God Got Rid of Evil

I think we could all agree that there's a lot of evil in the world. The question I'd like to ask you is this: if God got rid of evil, who would He get rid of?

Some say "the Devil"; others say "we need evil to understand good"; yet many do agree that God would have to get rid of evil people. **So the real question is...who is evil?**

Would you agree that we all have a conscience?

The word conscience comes from two words: 'Con' means 'with'; 'science' means 'knowledge', so we are all born 'with knowledge'. What is that knowledge?

According to the Bible in Romans 2:14-15, it is God's law written on our hearts. Do you ever notice that when you lie or think of stealing something, your conscience bothers you? That's God's law written on your heart! (Unless your conscience is no longer working properly, or "seared", as the Scripture calls it in 1 Timothy 4:2.)

Would you consider yourself a good person?

The most common answer to this question is 'yes.'

"Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, but who can find a faithful man?" Proverbs 20:6

It is easy to understand why we think we are good when we see that the majority of our news today is reports of so many people committing evil crimes. When we compare ourselves to others, we don't look so bad. But if you died today, would you be judged by what other people did or by what you did? The answer is of course by what you did.

"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment." Hebrews 9:27

How many lies have you told in your life? (If you're honest, probably more than you remember.) Have you ever stolen something? Have you ever committed adultery? Jesus said "Whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart." Have you ever looked at another person with lust (sexual desires)? Have you ever used God's name in vain? That's called blasphemy. Instead of using a four-letter curse word, you've used the sacred name of your Creator! God considers this a very serious offense.

What am I doing? I'm giving you God's law - the Ten Commandments. (We've only looked at four of the ten!) Why are we going through God's law? God's law exposes sin. What is the definition of sin? 1 John 3:4 says that "*sin is lawlessness*".

If we've broken the holy law of God, we're lawbreakers! What's God's penalty for breaking His law? The penalty is death. "*For the wages of sin is death,*" Romans 6:23.

The Bible says the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9) and this is the reason why we all do evil. The law reveals sin and exposes our true nature. People don't like their sins exposed; and that is why Jesus was hated. Jesus said: "*The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil.*" John 7:7

So, if you died today and were judged by those Ten Commandments, would you be innocent or guilty?

If you're honest, I think you would have to say guilty.

Remember the question 'If God got rid of evil, who would He get rid of?' He would get rid of all of us. He would get rid of all lawbreakers (sinners like you and me).

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

We are all sinners who have violated the law of God and deserve the wrath of the holy God who will one day separate sinners from Himself into an eternity in Hell.

Do you know what God did for you so that you wouldn't have to go to hell?

The word "Gospel" means "Good News". But unless you truly understand the bad news (that you've broken God's law and deserve God's wrath), the good news will not make sense.

The good news is that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, went to the cross in your place and mine, taking God's wrath upon Himself. Our sins were poured out on Christ the Son of God, and He was looked upon by God as if He had committed all our sins. The penalty for our sins is death. This was paid for in full when Jesus Christ became our substitute, lived the perfect life for us, died on the cross and rose the third day, so that He could justly offer forgiveness for the sins that you and I have committed.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.” Romans 5:8-9

So what must we do to be saved?

We need to repent and believe the Gospel. What does ‘repentance’ mean? It means that we have a total change of heart and mind, which leads us in a completely different direction. We need to turn from our sin (our ways) and turn to Christ; turning from unbelief to believing. It takes faith to believe what Christ did for us...yet what’s the opposite of faith? It’s unbelief. So if you live a life that says, “You know, I don’t care what Christ did for me; I’m going to live my own life; do my own thing...” it only shows that you don’t believe...but when we turn to Christ by faith we are saved and live to glorify Him.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God."

Ephesians 2:8

I encourage you to surrender your will and turn to Jesus Christ as your Lord today! Jesus said *“follow Me”*. How do we know how to follow Him? Through His Word! *“Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”* Romans 10:17

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